Statement

Central Assistance for relocation for villages during the last and current financial year

Rs. in lakhs

Sl. No.	Name of Tiger Reserve	2007-08 Released	2008-09 Released
1.	Sariska (Rajasthan)	50.00	1912.00
2.	Ranthambhore (Rajasthan)	50.00	500.00
3.	Satpura (Madhya Pradesh)	76.00	1024.49
4.	Panna (Madhya Pradesh)	1577.53	300.00
5.	Bandhavgarh	277.3668	—
6.	Similipal (Orissa)	—	350.00
7.	Bandipur/Nagarahole (Karnataka)	980.19	—
8.	Corbett (Uttarakhand)	10.00	—
	TOTAL	3021.087	4086.49

Forest fires

1915. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that most of forests in the country are fire prone and as per estimated timber worth Rs. 35 crore is lost to fires every year;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether Government has also sought help from the foreign experts/agencies to control forest fires; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and further steps Government propose to take to check such forest fires in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The Forest Survey of India on the basis of State field inventory\data of 25 years have estimated that about 9% of country's forests are prone to frequent fires and 44% forests to occasional fires. Thus, 53% of country's forest are estimated to be prone to fire. However it is not a fact that timber worth Rs. 35 crore is lost to fires every year.

(c) No such help has been sought from the foreign experts/agencies to control forest fires.

(d) Does not arise in view of the reply at (c). However, Forest fire management involves prevention, timely detection, control and monitoring. A combination of technologies such as Remote Sensing, Geographic Information System *etc.* is being used for detection and monitoring of forest fires. Under the Centrally Sponsored — Integrated Forest Protection Scheme, Forest Fire Control and Management is one of the components. Financial assistance is provided to the States/Union Territories on sharing basis to take up various activities for effective prevention and control of forest fires including use of modern technology.

Profit margins for the forest produce

1916. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether with fast depleting forest cover in the country, Government is sleeping over the issue of promoting forest certification which can play a pivotal role in promoting conservation and improve profit margins for the forest produce;

(b) if so, whether India is already behind desired target of 33 per cent forest/tree cover by 2012;

(c) whether forest certifications can play a major role in conserving forests and improving profit margins of forest produce;

(d) if so, whether Indian products manufactured from materials from non-certified forest face bias in global markets; and

(e) if so, by what time final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The National Forest Policy, 1988 provides that one-third of the total land area of the Country should be under forest or tree cover. However presently, as per the State of Forest Report, 2005 the total area of Forest Cover of the country is 677,088 square kilometers which constitutes 20.60% of the geographic area of the country.

(c) Forest Certification is an emerging market tool that provides credible information about sustainable management of the forestry resources. Products made by using sustainably harvested renewable raw material are termed as "environmentally friendly (preference) products" and are given preference by green consumers, particularly in developed markets. Companies thus use forest certification as a marketing tool to get a preference for their products and also better image of their company. Therefore, It has been generally opined by the experts that Forest Certification can certainly promote sustainable forest management and hence conservation of forests.

(d) Due to growing concerns about deforestation among environmentally conscious consumers in Europe and North America, Forest Certification has emerged as a response from